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Dear Senator Humphrey:

Even after Mike Armacost's visit to Islamabad, we are still receiving mixed signals from the Government of Pakistan on the Afghan media project; but we are actively seeking ways to break the impasse so that Boston University and King Features can begin their work. In the meanwhile, I thought you would be interested in reviewing some of the other initiatives USIA is pursuing to focus world attention on the Afghan situation.

You are already aware that USIA's Afghan Coordinator, Richard Ross, has met several times with Nancy Wolicki to sort out the thorny problems of possible U.S. royalty obligations for those USIA films on Afghanistan which, through your action, received congressional clearance for distribution in the United States.

Ross also has begun compiling names and addresses of overseas activists working to help the Afghan people. Of particular interest to you will be a separate compilation, by country, of parliamentarians and government officials who have taken public stands on Afghanistan. Ross expects to furnish an initial list of parliamentarians to Ms. Wolicki soon.

We have recently obtained the final text of the Turin Conference of November, 1985, a meeting of European jurists to study the bases for the recognition of an Afghan government in exile. I am attaching this "Legal Opinion on the Recognition of the Afghan Resistance", as well as a subsequent pamphlet by Ataul Hakim Tabibi, "The Legal Status of the Afghan Resistance Movement".

To assist in the forthcoming conference on Afghanistan at the Georgetown Center for Strategic and International Studies, we initiated Agency funding for the travel of three foreign professionals, including Dr. Laurence Laumchier of France and Dr. Johan Lagerfelt of Sweden. In addition to their appearance at this April 21st conference, our Agency office of Voluntary visitors has planned additional programming for these experts in Afghan humanitarian

The Honorable
Gordon J. Humphrey
United States Senate

relief. This will give USIA excellent coverage opportunities for TV, VOA, Wireless File, etc. Major American news organizations, including the important cables and weeklies, have been invited to cover the conference, and the CSIS organizers are hoping for significant media coverage.

We are exploiting each program opportunity as it arises. For example, the Agency very effectively used a 'voluntary visitor' who is a chemical warfare expert - Dr. Edward M. Spiers of Leeds University. We arranged Wireless File coverage for the visit, plus four VOA interviews (in our worldwide English service, Persian, Pashto and Dari) in which Spiers discussed the use of toxic and incapacitating gases in Afghanistan.

Earlier, in commemoration of the Afghan New Year, we set up a special videotaped briefing by Ambassador Charles Dunbar at our Washington Press Center. During that same March 21st weekend, USIA transmitted, by worldwide VOA and wireless file, President Reagan's Afghan New Year proclamation, as well as the statement of Secretary Shultz. To properly employ Agency resources, including the use of television for such visits, we have organized an Agency-wide working group which will meet regularly to get things done in a timely and effective fashion.

In addition to a database of individuals and Afghan organizations abroad, ECSS will maintain a calendar of future conferences, meetings of international organizations, and similar events. We will be paying particular attention to human rights conferences, and to a conference of historians and experts, now projected for Paris late in the year, which will undertake the preparation of a full and candid account of recent Afghan history.

USIA will also develop plans to cover Afghan activities this fall, including the expected November U.N. debate and the December observance of the Soviet invasion date. We plan to produce a freshly researched, multi-language pamphlet this year, which we will coordinate with the production of a worldwide poster show.

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Nancy Welicki and Dick Ross have already discussed projects to which USIA will be devoting attention and resources. Ross will continue to keep in close contact with your staff.

Sincerely,

Marvin L. Stone
Deputy Director

Enclosures: AS stated

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